

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 5-44. Please amend Claim 1. Please add new Claim 45. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound comprising hematin derivatized with one or more non-proteinaceous amphipathic groups, wherein the compound is water-soluble and, provided that, if the one or more non-proteinaceous amphipathic groups are polyalkylene glycol groups, the polyalkylene glycol groups have a molecular weight of about 5,000 to about 15,000.
2. (Original) The compound of Claim 1, wherein said compound is soluble in solutions ranging from pH 1 to pH 12.
3. (Original) The compound of Claim 1, wherein the amphipathic group is a substituted or unsubstituted polyalkylene glycol.
4. (Original) The compound of Claim 3, wherein the polyalkylene glycol is substituted or unsubstituted polyethylene glycol.
- 5.- 44. Canceled.
45. (New) The compound of Claim 1, wherein the amphipathic groups are selected from the group consisting of phosphoglycerides, sphingomyelin, glycolipids, polyethyleneimine, polyallylamine, poly(diallylamine), polyammonium groups, and polysaccharides.